

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/286,648, filed November 1, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,743,635, which claims priority [[on]] to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/375,017, filed April 25, 2002, U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/375,019, filed April 25, 2002, U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/375,020, filed April 25, 2002, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/375,054, filed April 25, 2002, all of which are fully incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The flowchart of Figure 15 illustrates a preferred [[the]] check strip sequence. A check strip may have electrical contacts near its distal end (in addition to the auto-on conductor) that are similar to electrical contacts 32-38 on test strip 10, except that the electrical contacts on the check strip may be connected to resistors, with predetermined resistances, rather than to actual electrodes. Thus, when a check strip is inserted into meter 200, electrical contacts 236 and 238 may contact “working electrode” and “counter electrode” contacts on the check strip that are actually connected via a first resistor in the check strip. Similarly, electrical contacts 240 and 242 may contact “fill-

detect" contacts on the check strip that are actually connected via a second resistor in the check strip.